

A second reason why the Exchange has chosen to institute this policy is to ensure that member organizations that choose to employ a joint account for their Exchange trading, rather than using individual market-maker accounts, are not disadvantaged in participating in trades vis-a-vis those member organizations that do employ individual market-maker accounts. Some member organizations choose to have their various market-makers trade in a joint account so that the member organization's positions can be more easily monitored and managed. Under the current equity policy regarding joint accounts, however, these member organizations would only be able to be represented by one joint account participant in a trading crowd at one time. On the other hand, the member organization using the individual market-maker accounts would be able to be represented by each market-maker's individual account. The proposed change would eliminate the disadvantage currently suffered by member organizations using joint account structures.

In addition to the regulatory circular, one sentence will be deleted and another added from Rule 8.16(a)(ii). This rule currently prohibits more than one joint account participant from using the joint account for trading on RAES in a particular option class unless the Exchange's Market Performance Committee ("MPC") provides an exemption. However, because any joint account participant trading in-person would be entitled to participate on the same side of a trade with his fellow joint account participants in the same trading crowd as a result of the proposed regulatory circular, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to no longer require an exemption from the MPC to have more than one participant use the joint account for trading on RAES. In any event, to participate on RAES, a member must be present in the trading crowd.

The Exchange represents that by eliminating a distinction that currently exists between member organizations that manage their positions differently, the proposed rule change furthers the objectives of Section 6(b) of the Act in general and Section 6(b)(5) in particular by providing rules that perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and that protect investors and the public interest.

#### ***B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition***

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will impose no inappropriate burden on competition.

#### ***C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others***

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

#### **III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

Within 35 days of the publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve the proposed rule change, or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

#### **IV. Solicitation of Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CBOE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CBOE-95-65 and should be submitted by December 28, 1995.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>3</sup>

Margaret H. McFarland,

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-29779 Filed 12-6-95; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-M**

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

[Release No. 34-36538; International Series Release No. 894; File No. SR-Amex-95-44]

#### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange, Inc., Relating to the Listing and Trading of Equity Linked Term Notes on Non-U.S. Securities**

November 30, 1995.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on November 9, 1995, the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

#### **I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 107B of the Amex Company Guide to provide alternate criteria for the listing and trading of certain hybrid debt securities whose value is linked to the performance of a non-U.S. company which is traded in the U.S. market as sponsored American Depositary Shares, ordinary shares or otherwise. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, the Exchange, and at the Commission.

#### **II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Section (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

#### **(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

On May 20, 1993 and December 13, 1993, the Commission approved amendments to Section 107 of the Amex Company Guide to provide for the listing and trading of Equity Linked

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Term Notes ("ELNs").<sup>3</sup> ELNs are intermediate term (two to seven years), non-convertible, hybrid debt instruments, the value of which is linked to the performance of a highly capitalized, actively traded U.S. and non-U.S. companies.

In August 1994, the Exchange amended Section 107B of the Amex Company Guide to permit the listing and trading of ELNs linked to actively traded non-U.S. companies which are traded in the U.S. market as sponsored American Depositary Shares, ordinary shares or otherwise ("non-U.S. securities"), provided that (1) the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement with the primary exchange on which the non-U.S. security trades; or (2) the trading volume of the non-U.S. security in the U.S. market represents at least 50% of the world-wide trading volume in the non-U.S. security ("50% Test").<sup>4</sup>

The Exchange now proposes to amend its ELNs on non-U.S. security listing criteria by (1) revising the manner in which the applicable percentage of world-wide trading volume is calculated under the 50% Test; and (2) adding new criteria for the listing of ELNs on non-U.S. securities, based on the daily trading volume in the U.S. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to revise the 50% Test so that trading in non-U.S. securities and other related non-U.S. securities in any market with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive/effective surveillance sharing agreement will be added to U.S. market volume for the purpose of determining whether the 50% Test has been met. Currently, only trading in the U.S. market counts toward satisfying the 50% Test.

In addition, the Exchange proposes to add an alternate set of criteria under which the Exchange may list ELNs on non-U.S. securities ("Daily Trading Volume Standard"). The new standard will permit the Exchange to list ELNs on non-U.S. securities if all of the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the combined world-wide trading volume for the non-U.S. security in the U.S. market or in any market with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement represents (on a share equivalent basis) at least 20% of the combined world-wide trading volume in the non-U.S. security and other related non-U.S. securities over the six month period preceding the date of selection of the

non-U.S. security for an ELN listing; (2) the average daily trading volume for the non-U.S. security in the U.S. market over the six months preceding the date of selection of the non-U.S. security for an ELN listing is at least 100,000 shares; and (3) the trading volume for the non-U.S. security in the U.S. market is at least 60,000 shares per day for a majority of the trading days for the six months preceding the date of selection of the non-U.S. security for an ELN listing.

The Exchange believes that the alternate criteria is appropriate in that it limits the listing of ELNs linked to non-U.S. securities to those that have both a significant amount of U.S. market trading volume and a substantial volume of trading covered by a comprehensive/effective surveillance sharing agreement, which gives the Exchange the ability to inquire into potential trading problems or irregularities in a market place that serves as a significant price discovery market for the non-U.S. security. Thus, the proposed requirement of observable, high trading volumes, should ameliorate any regulatory concern regarding investor protection and, at the same time, allow investors to trade ELNs linked to more non-U.S. securities.

The Exchange also believes that the proposed amendment will benefit investors by expanding the number of non-U.S. securities that may be linked to ELNs, thereby providing investors with enhanced investment flexibility. The Exchange believes that it is appropriate to now include additional non-U.S. securities within the existing regulatory framework because of the significant level of U.S. investor interest in both U.S. and non-U.S. highly capitalized and actively traded reporting companies.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act in general and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of change, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system.

#### *(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition.

#### *(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others*

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

#### *III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action*

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve such proposed rule change, or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

#### *IV. Solicitation of Comments*

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing proposal. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, D.C. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CBOE. All submissions should refer to SR-Amex-95-44 and should be submitted by December 28, 1995.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

Margaret H. McFarland,

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-29780 Filed 12-6-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 32345 (May 20, 1993), 58 FR 30833 (May 27, 1993), and 33328 (December 13, 1993), 58 FR 66041 (December 20, 1993).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34549 (August 18, 1994), 59 FR 43873 (August 25, 1994).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).